

Healthgrades Best Hospitals

Healthgrades publishes its list of the best 50, 100, and 250 hospitals annually

Best Hospitals Methodology

For the best 50 hospitals:

- 1 To determine the top 50 hospitals, Healthgrades identifies hospitals that have been named one of their “250 Best Hospitals” (formerly known as the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence) for at least eight consecutive years.
- 2 Since more than 50 hospitals have been recognized as one of America’s 250 Best Hospitals for at least eight consecutive years, Healthgrades sorts eligible hospitals by their volume-weighted average z-score from the Top 250 Hospital analysis (see more detail on this score below) to generate its top 50 list.

Data Sources

Inpatient data for the years 2017-2019 from the Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR), which is purchased from CMS

For the best 100 hospitals:

- 3 To identify the next top 50 hospitals, Healthgrades expands eligibility to hospitals that received the Top 250 Hospitals award for at least four consecutive years. It then ranks them based on consecutive years having achieved the award and by volume-weighted average z-score.

For the best 250 hospitals:

- 4 The full list of 250 hospitals includes all recipients of the 2021 Top 250 Hospital award. This accounts for the top 5% of performers on Healthgrades’ clinical quality metrics.

‘Top 250 Best Hospitals’ Methodology

To receive Healthgrades’ America’s 250 Best Hospitals Award, a hospital must be in the top 5% of all hospitals in the country for clinical excellence across 32 outcomes and conditions (see the following page for a list). To be eligible, a hospital must have data in the MedPAR files for at least 21 of the 32 conditions.

To evaluate hospital performance across these 32 outcomes and conditions, Healthgrades evaluates each hospital’s actual performance on each measure compared to their predicted performance (based on a specific risk-adjustment model that accounts for each hospital’s demographic and clinical risk factors; see [here](#) for the detailed methodology). The mortality-specific measures are adjusted to place a higher statistical influence on 30-day mortality (60% weight) over in-hospital mortality (40% weight). Each of the 32 calculations results in a z-score that is weighted by hospital volumes and averaged across all measures to determine an overall hospital performance score.

Hospitals are then listed in descending order based on their overall performance score, and the top 5% of facilities nationwide (250 total) receive the America’s 250 Best Hospitals Award.

Healthgrades Top Hospitals

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Clinical Outcomes and Conditions Measures Evaluated

Mortality-Based Procedures & Conditions

Bowel Obstruction	Esophageal/Stomach Surgeries	Respiratory Failure
COPD ¹	Gastrointestinal Bleed	Sepsis
Colorectal Surgeries	Heart Attack	Small Intestine Surgeries
CABG ² Surgery	Heart Failure	Stroke
Coronary Interventional Procedures	Pancreatitis	Valve Surgery
Cranial Neurosurgery	Pneumonia	
Diabetic Emergencies	Pulmonary Embolism	

In-Hospital Complications-Based Procedures & Conditions

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair	Pacemaker Procedures
Back and Neck Surgeries (Without Spinal Fusion)	Peripheral Vascular Bypass
Carotid Surgery	Prostate Removal Surgery
Defibrillator Procedures	Spinal Fusion
Gallbladder Surgery	Total Knee Replacement
Hip Fracture Treatment	Transurethral Prostate Resection Surgery
Hip Replacement	

1) Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
2) Coronary Artery Bypass Graft